



# Reader's Guide

## *Draft Land and Resource Management Plan & Draft Environmental Impact Statement*

Thank you for your interest in the revision of the Coconino National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan! This reader's guide is intended to provide an overview of the review documents, tips for reviewing and submitting comments, and information for next steps.

We invite you to review the *Draft Land and Resource Management Plan* and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* and provide your comments during this important phase of plan revision. A 90-day public comment period starts with publication of the Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*. Comments must be postmarked or emailed no later than March 20, 2014.

## Contents of the Review Documents

### **Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan:**

- *Chapter 1. Background* - Briefly describes the Coconino NF, the analysis of the management situation, the purpose of the plan, plan content, and plan organization.
- *Chapter 2. Forestwide Management* - Contains plan decisions and other content that are applicable forestwide.
- *Chapter 3. Management Areas and Special Areas* - Contains plan decisions and other content that is applicable to particular management areas, in addition to forestwide direction.
- *Chapter 4. Suitable Uses* - Describes the appropriateness, or suitability, of certain resource management practices (uses) across the forest.
- *Chapter 5. Monitoring Strategy* - Contains the monitoring plan decisions and provides a framework for subsequent monitoring and evaluation.
- *List of Preparers* - Contains a list of the specialists who contributed to development of the plan.
- *Glossary* - Contains definitions for technical terms used in the plan.
- *References* - Contains a list of citations for documents referenced in the plan.
- *Appendix A. Maps* - Contains several maps relating to plan direction.
- *Appendix B. Proposed and Probable Management Practices* - Describes proposed and probable practices and timber sale schedule that may take place at the project or activity level.
- *Appendix C. Species Crosswalk* - Compares the common, scientific, and other names attributed to plant and wildlife species discussed in the plan.
- *Appendix D. Other Sources of Information* - Includes laws, regulations, Forest Service policy and/or direction.
- *Appendix E. Index of Other Supporting Plan Documentation* - Lists documents that significantly contributed to development of the plan components and/or are evaluations which were required by the 1982 planning rule provisions.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement Volume 1:**

- *Chapter 1. Plan Revision Needs for Change* - Includes information on the Needs for Change which were identified during the early stages of plan revision and the agency's draft plan for addressing those Needs for Change.
- *Chapter 2. Alternatives* - Provides a more detailed description of the draft plan as well as alternative methods for addressing the Needs for Change. It also provides a summary table of the environmental consequences associated with each alternative.
- *Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences* - Summarizes the physical, biological, social, and economic environments affected by the land and resource management plan and the environmental consequences of implementing the draft plan and other alternatives on these environments.

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement Volume 2:**

- *Chapter 3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences (continued)*
- *Chapter 4. Consultation and Coordination* – Contains a list of the specialists who contributed to development of the DEIS.
- *Glossary* - Provides explanations for key concepts in the DEIS.
- *References* - Contains a list of citations for documents referenced in the DEIS.
- *Index* - Provides page numbers by topic (to be added for the final EIS).

**Draft Environmental Impact Statement Volume 3:**

- *Appendix A. Maps* - Contains several maps relating to the alternatives.
- *Appendix B. Public Collaboration and Involvement/Other Planning Efforts* – Demonstrates how the Coconino National Forest integrated the public, stakeholders, and adjacent landowners into the various phases of its land management plan revision effort.
- *Appendix C. Methodology and Analysis Process* – Provides explanations for the analyses contained in the main body of the document by providing supplemental information about assumptions, data sources, and/or methodologies used.
- *Appendix D. Response to Comments* - To be developed for the FEIS in response to comments received on the DEIS during the 90-day comment period.
- *Appendix E. Other 1982 Planning Rule Provisions* - Fulfills the remaining 1982 planning rule provisions and other planning related requirements that are not satisfied in the main body of the DEIS: benchmark analysis and financial evaluation.
- *Appendix F. Forest Plan Language for Alternatives* - Provides specific plan language for alternatives C and D should either of those alternatives be chosen as the Selected Action in the Record of Decision.
- *Appendix G. Timber Sale Schedule, Financial Evaluation, Allowable Sale Quantity, Long Term Sustained Yield, and Timber Suitability Calculation* – Describes the analyses used in determining timber suitability.
- *Appendix H. Index of Other Supporting EIS Documentation* - Lists documents that significantly contributed to development of the DEIS.

## DEIS Alternatives Summary

The table below summarizes the four alternatives analyzed in the DEIS and compares differences in their recommendations for wilderness and proposals for botanical areas, geological areas, and wildlife habitat management areas. A more detailed table outlining the alternatives can be found at the end of chapter 2 in the DEIS.

DEIS Alternatives Summary	Recommended and Proposed Areas
<b>Alternative A</b> is the 1987 plan, as amended, and serves as the National Environmental Policy Act “no-action” alternative, an alternative that does not vary from the existing management direction.	No additional wilderness areas, geological areas, or botanical areas  No wildlife habitat management areas
<b>Alternative B</b> is the proposed revised plan and provides desired conditions and other plan components for many resources not addressed in alternative A. This option provides diverse recreation opportunities; acknowledges open space and potential future community growth; and improves and maintains ecosystem function and resiliency. Alternative B retains some of the direction from the 1987 plan, specifically land exchange and scenery direction from plan amendments that reflect community values in Flagstaff and Sedona.	3 recommended wilderness areas totaling 14,767 acres  1 proposed geological area  No wildlife habitat management areas
<b>Alternative C</b> contains most of the same management direction as alternative B, but it further responds to public desires for more wilderness areas, as well as other management and special areas to provide additional protection to wildlife, vegetation resources, and watersheds. Eight Wildlife Habitat Management Areas (WHMAs) are proposed. Recreational (non-hunting) shooting would not be suitable in WHMAs, botanical areas, geological areas, research natural areas and in areas around Walnut Canyon, Sedona, Long Valley, and Flagstaff. Snowmobile use would not be suitable in the Walnut Canyon Management Area and areas with a recreation opportunity spectrum objective of “semi-primitive nonmotorized.” This alternative would also apply old growth direction from the 1987 plan with slight adjustments.	13 recommended wilderness areas totaling 92,386 acres (including some on Prescott National Forest)  1 proposed geological area  1 proposed botanical Area  8 proposed wildlife habitat management areas*
<b>Alternative D</b> contains most of the same management direction as alternative B, but is more responsive to public desires for increased social and infrastructure uses. Adjustments to scenic integrity objectives would allow for infrastructure, such as the powerline, between the Sycamore Canyon and Red Rock-Secret Mountain wilderness areas to expand its existing corridor up to the adjacent wilderness boundary and allow an alternate route for the Western Area Power Authority powerline (to an area currently used for alternative energy transmission).	No additional wilderness areas, geological areas, or botanical areas  No wildlife habitat management areas

\* Wildlife habitat management areas would be included as management areas, which have additional area-specific plan guidance beyond forestwide guidance. These areas would not be considered designated special areas.

## Tips on Reviewing

- Start by reading the *Summary* of the DEIS.
- Look over parts of the DEIS. A good way to become familiar with the alternatives is the comparison tables at the end of chapter 2.
- Look through the draft plan as it describes management direction in detail.
- The DEIS appendices contain further details about analysis that was conducted in developing the DEIS.
- Specific comments on how to improve the draft plan, what you prefer in other alternatives or important things you think we missed in the alternatives, are very helpful.
- We can better respond to your comments if you are as specific as possible and if you cite the location(s) in the document of the section to which you are directing your comments.
- If you reference other documents in your comments, please attach complete copies, or links to them. If complete copies are not available, please provide the cover page and applicable pages from them.

## Tips on Effective Commenting

Now is your chance to comment on the *Draft Land and Resource Management Plan* and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*.

First, there are a few important points you need to know about how we respond to comments and how we can both get the most out of your review of these documents. If you are going to take time to comment, you want it to count.

- **Substantive comments** provide factual information, professional opinion, or informed judgment that is relevant to the action being proposed. Substantive comments are specific, comparative, or solution oriented. A substantive comment provides the reasons why and goes beyond just expressing an opinion. Comments such as, “The proposed action looks good” is not substantive. We want to know why the proposed action looks good.
- This is **not a voting process**. Comments are considered based on content, not quantity. While all comments will be considered, we find substantive comments related to the alternatives the most useful.

## Where to Find Review Documents

The *Draft Land and Resource Management Plan* and *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* are available online on the Coconino National Forest planning project Web page at:

<http://go.usa.gov/jHnY>

Hard copies and CDs of these documents are also available at the Supervisor’s Office in Flagstaff and at the ranger district offices in Flagstaff, Happy Jack, and Sedona.

## Where to Submit Comments

Please submit comments using one of the methods below (listed in order of preference for ease of processing and reduced costs to the taxpayer in the content analysis process):

**Electronic:** We encourage you to provide comments by going to our project's Web site (<http://go.usa.gov/jHnY>) and using the "Comment on Project" link on the right sidebar. Electronic comments may also be emailed to: [coconino\\_national\\_forest\\_plan\\_revision\\_team@fs.fed.us](mailto:coconino_national_forest_plan_revision_team@fs.fed.us). Comments can be included directly in the body of the email message or as an attachment in Word document format (.doc or .docx), portable document format (.pdf), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), or hypertext markup language (.html)

You will receive an automated electronic acknowledgement to confirm receipt of the message. Only the first email from each sender will receive confirmation. If you do not receive this confirming message on the first email, it is your responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means.

### Written:

Coconino National Forest  
Attention: Plan Revision  
1824 South Thompson Street  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001

**Please Note:** Comments received, including your name, address, email address, and telephone number (if provided), are considered part of the public record, and will be available for public inspection.

## Next Steps

### Public Meetings:

The Coconino National Forest will host 2 separate rounds of public meetings. Round one will focus on how to navigate through the documents; submit substantive, high quality comments; and finding out topics participants are most interested in. Round two will focus on discussing and answering questions regarding previously identified topics.

January: Round One	February: Round Two
<p><b>January 14th: Flagstaff (3:00-7:00pm)</b>  Location: Flagstaff Aquaplex  Meeting Room A  1702 N. Fourth St.  Flagstaff, AZ, 86004  Description: Open House and Workshop</p>	<p><b>February 24th: Flagstaff (3:00-7:00pm)</b>  Location: Flagstaff Aquaplex  Meeting Room A  1702 N. Fourth St.  Flagstaff, AZ, 86004  Description: Focus Topic/Comment Workshop</p>
<p><b>January 15th: Sedona (3:00-7:00pm)</b>  Sedona-Oak Creek Airport  Conference Room  235 Air Terminal Drive  Sedona, AZ 86336  Description: Open House and Workshop</p>	<p><b>February 25th: Sedona (3:00-7:00pm)</b>  Sedona-Oak Creek Airport  Conference Room  235 Air Terminal Drive  Sedona, AZ 86336  Description: Focus Topic/Comment Workshop</p>
<p><b>January 16th: Happy Jack (11:00 am-2:00 pm)</b>  Mogollon Rim Ranger District  8738 Ranger Road  Happy Jack, AZ 86024  Description: Open Office Hours/Walk-ins</p>	<p><b>February 26th: Happy Jack (11:00 am-2:00 pm)</b>  Mogollon Rim Ranger District  8738 Ranger Road  Happy Jack, AZ 86024  Description: Open Office Hours/Walk-ins</p>

## Decision to be Made:

Public comments received during the 90-day comment period may be used to modify alternatives, develop new alternatives for consideration, improve analysis of effects, or to make factual corrections. Public comments will help to finalize the Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Regional Forester will select from the alternatives evaluated in the *Final Environmental Impact Statement*. A Record of Decision will be published at that time to identify which alternative was selected and why.

## For More Information

Please contact us if you would like more information about the draft documents or the revision process:

- Vernon Keller, Planning Specialist (928) 527-3415, [vkeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:vkeller@fs.fed.us)

You can also follow us on Twitter @CoconinoNF for regular event updates and notifications.

We look forward to hearing from you!